

THE LIBERATOR

A Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Cause of Good Government and the Advancement of the American Negro

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LOS ANGELES, CAL., SEPT. 5, 1913

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Public Records in City Assessor Mallard's Office Defaced in Violation of the Law

**Negroes and Italians Insulted—
Grand Jury Investigation to
Follow**

But a few weeks ago the voters and taxpayers of this city were startled by the discovery that City Assessor Mallard's office had been used to discriminate against the poor and middle classes in favor of the rich by exempting property from taxation owned by the rich to the amount of several million dollars, while the property of the poor was assessed to the limit. This discovery alone was accepted by the voters as ample proof that the retirement of Assessor Mallard was absolutely necessary if justice was to be done alike to all taxpayers. It will not be possible for Mr. Mallard by any process of reasoning to explain away the exemption of three or four million dollars of property owned by the rich, while the property of the poor is assessed to the limit. The trouble is, under Mr. Mallard's administration of the Assessor's office, the "lucky strikes" are all in favor of the rich.

Records Defaced.

Although the Negroes and Italians had borne their full share of the burden caused by Mr. Mallard's exemption from taxation of big slices of property owned by the rich, they did not expect the added insult to injury that the records of Mr. Mallard's office held in store for them. This discovery was made a few days ago when Mr. Titus N. Alexander, a Negro real estate agent called to locate certain colored real estate owners.

In field book 20, on page 320, he

found to his surprise not the names of the Negro owners and occupants of the property, but he found in every case where Negroes live the Assessor in describing the occupants of the property wrote: "occupied by niggers." In disgust he went out and got Dr. Leggett and Mr. John Hall to go with him and examine the records which they did, only to find them defaced as stated. The attention of one of the clerks was then called to the affair, who stated that the whole thing would be straightened out, and he hoped no publicity would be given it. In the meantime he invited the editor of this journal, Dr. and Mrs. Duvall to accompany him to the city hall and farther inspect the records. Field book 20 was delivered to the party, but the word "nigger" had been erased, the marks of the erasure being plainly visible. The gentleman delivering the book stated that the erasures had been purposely made, and that the defacements had been made by an extra, and that property owned by Italians had been written: "occupied by Dagoes," which he said had also been erased. However, he was unable to explain why these defacements of the public records had been allowed to remain undisturbed until discovered by a Negro. These defacements have undoubtedly been seen by scores and scores of people who search those records; and but for the discovery by Mr. Alexander those defacements insulting Negroes and Italians would have become permanent parts of the records. When we called his attention to the fact that such defacements of public

records is a felony and the person guilty of such defacement was subject to an indictment by the grand jury he stated that the whole thing was the work of an extra clerk. He seemed to have forgotten that Assessor Mallard was responsible for the care and keeping of the records of that office; and that it was his duty to see to it that the heads of the various departments see that the records are properly kept, reporting to him any irregularities that might occur from time to time. The defacements under consideration show that this is not the case. They show further that some of the departments seem to take care of themselves so far as Assessor Mallard is concerned. The making and preserving such defacements of the public records is absolutely without excuse. The whole thing was done to degrade Negro and Italian property owners.

While this whole matter will be laid before the grand jury in the hope of punishing the person immediately responsible for it, Assessor Mallard will find at the next city primary election out side of the West Lake district, he will have difficulty in getting votes enough to count.

LITTLE STORIES OF SUCCESS (Number 5)

The School That Edward Built

In the Arabian Nights and in other stories we read of palaces and of cities being built by magic in a single night. The true stories of how many of the Negro schools have been built in the South are no

less wonderful than these fairy tales. Such a story is that of the school that Edwards built.

In 1893 William J. Edwards graduated from Tuskegee Institute. The following year, with lots of faith, fifty cents and three students he established, in a log cabin, at his home in Wilcox County, Alabama, the Snow Hill Normal and Industrial Institute. There was no elaborate prospectus showing what the school hoped to be, but down there in one of the most benighted of the black belt counties of Alabama, Edwards started in a crude way to minister to the needs of the people among whom he was reared. Here he has labored until the present time. Instead of the log cabin, there is now a school plant worth about \$100,000. It consists of 1900 acres of land and 21 buildings. Instead of three pupils there are now some four hundred and the faculty has increased from one teacher to thirty-five. There are fifteen industries taught in the school. They are blacksmithing, wheelwrighting, carpentry, sawmilling, brickmaking, brick masonry, painting, printing, general farming, truck gardening, dairying, cooking, sewing, laundering and basketry.

The school is accomplishing the object for which it was started, that is, to help the people of the community. When it was first established all the land owned by the colored people in the vicinity amounted to only about 20 acres. Now, within a radius of ten miles they own more than 10,000 acres in farms ranging from 20 to 500 acres. The one room log cabins, in which the people lived when the school was first started, have been replaced by cottages with from two to five rooms, public school houses and church buildings, of which there were none, have been built. Through the Black Belt Improvement Company, the Farmer's Conference, the Agricultural Demonstration work and the rural school work, the influence of the school has been extended to every part of the country.

Snow Hill has sent out something

like 700 young men and women who are now working in Wilcox and other counties as farmers, carpenters, blacksmiths, printers, seamstresses, teachers, etc.

There are three off-shoots of the Snow Hill Institute. John Thomas, who graduated from there in 1901 established in a section of Wilcox County, where education is badly needed the Hopewell Manual Training School. Another graduate, Emanuel M. Brown, has established at Richmond, in Dallas County, Alabama, the Streed Manual Training School. The plant consists of 4 buildings and 30 acres of land. There are about 250 students enrolled. At Laurinburg, North Carolina, Emanuel D. McDuffie, another graduate of Snow Hill, established in 1904, the Laurinburg Normal and Industrial Institute.

Thus within twenty years after graduating from Tuskegee Institute, William J. Edwards has built up from a small beginning in a one-room log cabin, an institution that is a monument to himself and a potent force in the general uplift of the Negroes of the South.

A GALLANT SOLDIER MUSTERED OUT Obituary

Capt. Edward Lee Baker

(A Biographical Sketch from the History of the War.)

This distinguished young officer won his medal of honor at Santiago, Cuba, July 1, 1898, and has a very remarkable and brilliant record in the army of the Union. He was born the 28th of December, 1865, on the Platte River, Laramie County, Wyoming. He enlisted on the 27th of July, 1882, in Troop "D," 9th United States Cavalry. Appointed Trumpeter the 2nd of July, 1883, discharged July 26th, 1887, re-enlisted August 25th, 1887. General Mounted Service assigned to Troop "B," 10th Cavalry May 4, 1888. Regimental clerk the same date. Appointed Chief Trumpeter of the Regiment February 9, 1890, promoted Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant January 28, 1891, and

Regimental Sergeant Major April 25, 1892, discharged August 24, 1892, re-enlisted August 25, 1897. Appointed First Lieutenant 10th U. S. Cavalry, September 5, 1901. Appointed Second Lieutenant Philippine Scouts, U. S. A., February 17, 1902. While in the Philippines he served as Judge Advocate, Provost Judge, Provost Marshall and also as Adjutant, Engineer, Intelligence Officer, Quartermaster and Commissary. He was wounded by shrapnell shell on the 1st of July, 1898, at Santiago, Cuba, and won the Congress Medal of Honor on same date. As the 10th U. S. Cavalry approached the crossing of San Juan River it was subjected to a terrific converging artillery and musketry fire from the works in front. Still further to the left, and nearer the city, the fire was so severe that General Wheeler, commanding Artillery Division 5th Army Corps, ordered the regiment placed behind an embankment for shelter. While there, and moving to that position, a comrad was wounded and fell into the stream in full view of the works. Whereupon, Captain Baker, then Sergeant Major of the 10th U. S. Cavalry, voluntarily went to his assistance and carried him into a place of safety, after having been warned of the chances he was taking. His Congress Medal of Honor will be inherited by his eldest son, Edward Lee Baker, Jr. Captain Baker's long and active service in the army of twenty-five years and over, serving as private, officer, scout and Rough Rider, was disabled by a gun shot wound in the region of the stomach, which developed into stomach trouble. His family moved from Arizona to Los Angeles on July 4th, 1906. As the Captain suffered a great deal, he was advised by his physicians to go to the Presidea in San Francisco to undergo an operation from which he never recovered. He died August 26th, 1913. A beloved and faithful wife and five children survive him. He was a kind husband, and an indulgent father. He has answered the last command.

"There is no man that bath power

over the spirit to retain the spirit, neither hath he power in the day of death, and there is no discharge in that Army."—Eccl. 8:8.

Funeral services held in chapel of Cunningham & O'Connor's Grand Avenue, between 10th and 11th streets, Los Angeles, Monday, Sept. 1st. Interment Rosedale Cemetery. A profusion of beautiful floral tributes of respect were laid tenderly upon the casket.

J. D. REYNOLDS.

BRILLIANT OPENING OF THE GOLDEN WEST CAFE

In keeping with its name, "The Golden West Cafe" threw its doors open to a generous public on the first. The opening was greeted by a big crowd which continued to increase until evening, when the brilliantly lighted dining halls were packed. Under the glare of scores of electric chandeliers the night was changed to day and the gay crowds moving hither and thither amidst magnificent surroundings the whole took on the appearance of a fairyland.

The furnishings are all new and up to date, the tables being supplied with everything to be found in any first-class hostelry, and the services are second to none. The "Golden West Hotel and Cafe" supplies every public want and will, without doubt, command the patronage it deserves. The cafe alone furnishes employment for eighteen persons, all Negroes. Mr. George S. Brown, the proprietor, is receiving on every hand the congratulations he deserves.

NEWS ITEM

Rev. A. Hubbs, of New Orleans, will preach at Mt. Zion Baptist Church Sunday morning, Sept. 7th. Mr. Hubbs is a forceful speaker and will no doubt draw a large and appreciative audience.

Right Rev. H. B. Parks delivered a short address at the Second M. E. Church, at the Furlong Home Tract, Sunday evening last.

THE GROUND BREAKING

The great ground-breaking exercises for the National Industrial Orphan School will take place at Watts, Sunday, Sept. 21st, at 3 p. m. An interesting program is being prepared which will appear in all of the papers next week. The ministers and choirs of the several churches will take part. Everybody is cordially invited to attend these exercises and contribute something for putting this worthy institution on a permanent foundation. The trustees are anxious to raise \$2,000 on that occasion. This can easily be done.

A great lecture on Industrial Education by one of America's greatest orators, Dr. W. T. Vernon, ex-U. S. Registrar of Treasury, at Y. M. C. A., Pasadena, September 15, 1913.

Dr. Vernon is one of the greatest colored orators of this country, and is president of Campbell College in Jackson, Miss., and is in constant demand, therefore the Citizens of Pasadena are fortunate indeed in securing his services at this time.

Dr. Vernon is coming to Pasadena under the auspices of the National Industrial and Orphans' School, an institution that is filling a long felt want in this State, caring for infants and helpless children, giving them the right start in life, so every ticket you buy will be a help along that line.

Admission 25 cents; reserved seats 35 cents.

OFF FOR TUSKEGEE

Chaperoned by Mrs. Katherine E. Barr, Masters Elmer E. Barr, Alva C. Garrott, Jr., Jas. M. Vena, Jr., Arthur Cole and Miss Marie Wrenn left for Tuskegee last Saturday evening. Mrs. Barr, who is prominently known here for her worth and public spiritedness, has an engagement at Tuskegee for six months, after which time she will return to this city where her services are much needed and highly appreciated.

The group of young people named

above who will spend four years in Tuskegee to imbibe the "Tuskegee spirit" and receive the inspiration that our western young people can get nowhere else, is only the forerunner of other groups which are to follow. Tuskegee is the greatest institution of the kind on the face of the earth, and young people entering there from sections where the Negroes are largely servants, and finding that that institution mighty as it is, is managed in its every department entirely by Negroes, receives inspiration and confidence in the Negro's ability to be and do things, that is alone worth to each student so entering the entire cost of a four-years' course in that institution.

We especially urge our young men and women of this great State to take advantage of its splendid mixed schools and after graduating from its institutions of higher education, which are free to all, take a post-graduate course at Tuskegee and get acquainted with the young men and women of our race that Tuskegee is annually sending out into the world to bring worthwhile things to pass.

FOR SALE.—At a bargain, two vacant lots in the Furlong Home Tract. This property will make splendid income property if improved. See Noah D. Thompson, N. E. corner 55th and Long Beach Ave. Phone South 1651, or J. L. Edmonds, Room 210 Thorpe Bldg. Phone Main 2051.

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FOR SALE.—Two lots, fine location, street work all done, sewers, gas and electricity in street, \$1600 cash. Titus Alexander, 209 Thorpe Bldg. Phone Main 9134.

THE LIBERATOR

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WESLEY CHAPEL NOTES

Sunday will be a great day in Wesley Chapel; the pulpit will be filled by the California Conference of the A. M. E. Church.

There will be a full day, for besides the regular services there will be baptism at 3 p. m., both by immersion and sprinkling.

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THAT FAKE NEGRO FAIR ASSOCIATION

The pretention by Mr. Jas. M. Alexander and Ex-Pastor E. T. Hubbard, who subscribe themselves respectively as president and secretary of the "California Negro Fair Association," that the Negroes of this State will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation with a fair at Seal Garden Park next week is regarded by the people as the rankest and most bald-faced fake ever attempted to be pulled off in this city. As is usual with the promoters of such schemes, the names of many prominent persons are used without their consent. The names of a number of preachers are used who openly denounce the affair as a gigantic grafting scheme. The whole thing, unless properly exposed, will result in deep humiliation of the Negroes from the fact that the Negroes of the State are taking no part in the affair, nothing will be exhibited that shows real progress. The Negro farmers, merchants, and others who are making real and creditable progress are taking no part whatever in the concern.

Last spring at a ministers' meeting the editor of this journal urged them to join a movement to secure an appropriation from the Legislature for the purpose of holding a State fair to celebrate the half a century of freedom. The ministers being too busy to look after such matters, the proposition was dropped. We knew that unless an appropriation of \$50,000 could be had from the Legislature the Negroes could make no creditable exhibit of their progress. The Negroes of this State own many fine cattle ranches, orange groves, vineyards, and other splendid holdings, nine-tenths of which are owned by ex-slaves. But it would take time and money and a capable publicity bureau to have interested them sufficiently to join in making an exhibition creditable to themselves and their great State.

For a couple of men without money and practically unknown to

the business interest of the Negroes of this State to get together and pull off a State fair in a half a dozen weeks is simply preposterous. And yet this is what these two gentlemen are trying to pull off with the people denouncing them on every hand. Rev. E. T. Hubbard is a preacher without a church, and Mr. Jas. M. Alexander, when not promoting such schemes, is cashier in the Internal Revenue Office of this city.

All that has been accomplished thus far by these gentlemen in the promotion of this wild scheme is to secure \$160 from the County Board of Supervisors and \$50 from the City Council, ostensibly to pay the transportation of Ex-Register of the Treasury, W. T. Vernon, from Jackson, Mississippi, to this city and return—for what? Besides the \$210 above mentioned, it is currently reported that quite a snug sum has been secured by private donation.

Rev. E. T. Hubbard is diligently calling upon the colored housewives for bits of home-made embroidery and fancy table doilies to put on exhibition at his fair next week as an evidence of the wonderful progress made by the Negroes in 50 years. Rev. Hubbard is acting in the name of the "California Negro Fair Association." When and by whom was this association organized?

One box of Irish potatoes grown by a Negro on his ranch, or one box of oranges gathered from a Negro's orange grove would show more real progress than a whole train load of fancy home-made doilies.

THE EDITOR ON THE SICK LIST

The old man of *The Liberator* is confined to his room this week, but the doctor says if he will take things easy he will soon come back. In the meanwhile he urgently requests all delinquent subscribers to show their loyalty by promptly sending in a money order for amounts due.

Grant Smith,
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Frank Williams,
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While it will cost a subscriber but five cents to send in amounts due by money order, it costs us 25 cents for each subscription when we send out a collector.

During the absence of the editor Mr. Noah D. Thompson, associate editor, will have charge of the paper and business of the office. All matters of business intrusted to his care will be properly cared for. Send in your subscription at once, he will need your co-operation.

AHEADHARDTOPHOTOGRAPH

Ex-President Taft and the late Justice Harlan, of the Supreme Court, while playing golf on the Murray Bay links near Mr. Taft's summer home, were approached by a photographer, who requested them to sit for a picture together. They consented, and Justice Harlan, removing his cap, disclosed a thoughtful but decidedly bald head which his exertions caused to gladden in the sunlight.

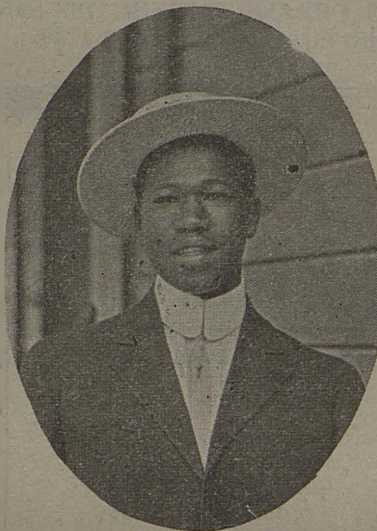
"You want to look out, Judge," said Mr. Taft, "you'll fog the plate."

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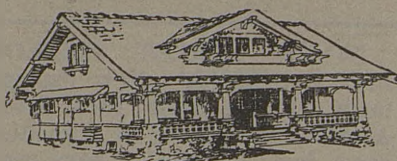
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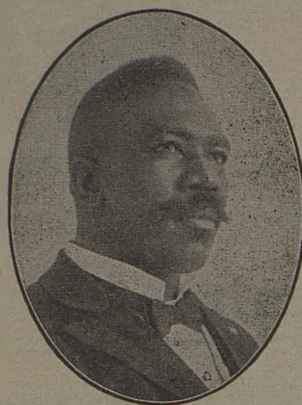
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